

[0005] The CPA is typically molded from plastic, and its components must be sufficiently thick to perform their intended function without cracking or breaking, while still being able to flex during assembly. Making the parts larger or heavier or from more expensive materials tend to be unacceptable options from both a cost perspective and a space perspective when it is desired to increase the latching force of the CPA.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, an electrical connector is provided that includes a housing having a mating end and a wire receiving end. The wire receiving end is configured to receive a terminal contact joined to a wire. A cover is provided on the wire receiving end of the housing. The cover includes a ridge on an interior surface thereof to stabilize the cover on the housing. A connector position assurance element (CPA) is slidably received in a channel on the cover and is movable between a pre-staged position and a staged position. The CPA engages a connector latch on the housing to assure that a mating connector is fully mated to the connector when the CPA is in the staged position.

[0007] Optionally, the cover includes a side wall having a recess configured to receive a cover latch on the housing to secure the cover to the wire receiving end of the housing. The cover flexes about the ridge when the cover is mounted on the housing. The CPA includes a latch beam having a latch element thereon that engages a step in the channel to latch the CPA to the cover.

[0008] In another embodiment of the invention, an electrical connector is provided that includes a housing having a mating end and a wire receiving end. The wire receiving end is configured to receive a terminal contact joined to a wire. A cover is provided on the wire receiving end of the housing. A connector position assurance element (CPA) is slidably received ⁱⁿ a channel on the cover. The CPA includes a platform and a latch beam having a first end oriented toward the mating end and a second end

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